BOROUGH OF TENBY

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the Year 1937

Printed at the "Observer" Offices, Frog Street, Tenby

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Gentlemen—

I beg to submit my report dealing with the health and sanitary conditions for the year ended December 31st, 1937.

The report is constructed on lines advocated by the Ministry of Health. There have been 13 cases of Scarlet Fever, 25 of Diphtheria, 1 of Puerperal Fever, and 1 of Erysipelas.

New houses are still being built by private enterprise and the Newell Hill Scheme has been completed providing 44 houses to replace Saltern and Bank Lane houses which have been demolished, and a further batch of houses are being considered necessary and plans are being put forward.

Area of Borough—420.266 acres.
Population (Resident)—3,681.
Elevation of area built on—10-150 feet.
Geological formation—Limestone.
Number of families or occupiers—1,161.
Inhabited houses—1,086.
Rateable value—£24,150.
Sum represented by 1d. rate—£100.
Water supply—Constant Service.
Births—51.
Birth rate—12.8 per cent.
Death rate—20.1 per cent.
Death rate (corrected)—20.1 per cent.
Zymotic death rate—.22 per cent.
Tuberculosis death rate—.12 per cent.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Boarding House and Hotel Keeping, Shop-keeping, Fishing. There are also a number of residents dependent to a large extent on summer visitors.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	24	24
Illegitimate	0	3
Total	24	27

STILL BIRTHS.

Nil.

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	1	2
Illegitimate	1	1

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth—Nil
From Sepsis—Nil.
Death of children under one year—3.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING YEAR 1937.

	Male.	Female.
Diphtheria	3	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	0
Cancer	3	4
Heart Disease	12	9
Other Circulatory	0	8
Diabetes	1	3
Bronchitis	0	2
Peptic Ulcer	0	0
Pneumonia	1	3
Other Digestive Disease	0	2
Nephritis	2	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	2
Other Violence	1	2
Other Defined Causes	2	3
Ill Defined or not known	0	1
Premature Birth	0	1
Influenza	1	2
Senility	0	1

HOSPITALS.

Isolation Hospital at Pembroke Dock administered by County Council to which cases of infectious disease are admitted from this area. The accommodation is not sufficient as reported last year, and this year there was a serious increase of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria in common with the whole County and the accommodation failed to satisfy the demand. Occasion arose for a complaint being made to the Ministry by local doctors and an official came down to make enquiries and interviewed the doctors in question, and it is understood later met the committee of the Isolation Hospital, but the result is unknown and no fruit has materialised as usually happens in such cases.

The Cottage Hospital at Tenby also serves the surrounding district. The beds are sufficient to meet demands except in the summer season. Maternity cases are admitted to the Maternity Ward at the Cottage Hospital and the call for more maternity wards is acute as so many women now prefer going into Hospital. This also affects the income of the District Nursing Association and the two bodies should combine and work be centred in the Hospital.

Venereal Disease under County Council arrangements at Swansea.

Chronic Sick—Woodbine House, Pembroke.

Mental Cases—Three Counties Asylum, Carmarthen.

Puerperal Cases—Would be treated at the local Hospital.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRE.

Tuberculosis Dispensary held at Cottage Hospital first and third Friday.

Baby Clinic held second Wednesday by County Medical Officer.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Tenby and District Nursing Association affiliated to Pembrokeshire Nursing Association employs one C.M.B. Nurse with a general training who also does district nursing.

Midwives—The Council is not the supervising authority.

Maternity and Nursing Homes—None.

Maternity mortality cases are investigated by County Medical Officer of Health.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological examination of milk, water and foodstuffs are carried out direct or through County Council.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

General adoptive in existence relating to Public Streets, Sewerage, Cesspools and Slaughter-houses.

Bye-laws have been adopted by the Corporation, but whether they will be enforced remains to be proved.

WATER SUPPLY.

Source remains the same. Chlorination, precipitation and filtration has been adopted and the original plant altered, but the Ministry still refuse to accept the present source of supply, but meanwhile advise considerable more work to be done as a temporary measure. The future outlook for this small borough is exceedingly bad as the expense will be very heavy even to carry out the temporary programme. This is the result of ignorance and fighting among themselves and not listening to their advisors who are appointed to direct their course of action.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Western Outfall is working satisfactorily when it is looked after. The Eastern Outfall requires attention and extension. An effort has been made to improve the drains in the Harbour with little success. Lavatories have been erected on the North Shore with an electric pump which will be in operation before the season of 1938 and it is hoped to also turn the Marine Baths into lavatories and remove the nuisance on the Pier.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

The Scavenging is generally satisfactory. Insufficient use is made of covers for the carts. The streets are kept clean. The scavenging and collecting in the outlying parts of the town should be more frequent in hot weather. The refuse is burnt on the tip which is kept clean.

DISINFECTION OF ROOMS.

Rooms are fumigated with formalin as required. No facilities for disinfecting clothing except sending to Isolation Hospital at Pembroke Dock

VERMINOUS PERSONS.

No facilities.

PUBLIC BATHS AND LAVATORIES.

No Public Baths. The Public Lavatories are well kept and clean. A start has been made providing lavatories on or in near proximity to the beaches.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR POST-MORTEM.

Public Mortuary where post mortems have to be performed in spite of protest and a committee appointed to arrange some improvement remains the same.

CEMETERY.

The local Cemetery has sufficient accommodation.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

All the houses in the town except a few outlying ones are provided with water closets and flushing cisterns.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions of the schools are satisfactory and water supply sufficient.

ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been 13 cases of Scarlet Fever and 25 of Diphtheria in a wave of these diseases which have been very prevalent throughout the county in 1937.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	New Cases.		Deaths.	
Age.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0
15	1	0	0	0
25	3	0	2	0
35	0	0	1	0
45	1	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0

Notification of Tuberculosis is satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.

Is inspected and kept clean. Better accommodation in regard to fasting pens and flushing apparatus would be beneficial.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORIUM.

No case in district in 1937.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Smallpox	0
Puerperal Fever	0
Scarlet Fever	13
Diphtheria	25
Pneumonia	0
Enteric	0
Erysipelas	1

CHARLES MATHIAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1938.

BOROUGH OF TENBY

METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS FOR 1937.

SUNSHINE.

Total hours for 1937—1,526.8 hours (yearly average 1927/37 inclusive, 1,624.1 hours).

Highest for one month—223.5 (May).

Highest for one day—13.9 hours (5th May).

Total days on which Sun shone—285.

RAINFALL.

Total inches for 1937—41.31 inches (yearly average for 1927/37 inclusive, 42.77 inches).

Highest for one month—7.07 inches (January).

Highest for one day—1.03 inches (22nd October).

Total days on which Rain fell—194.

TEMPERATURE (Fahr.).

Maximum temperatures, average for 1937—56.1 deg. (yearly average Maximum temperature, 56.0 deg.).

Minimum temperatures, average for 1937—45.1 deg. (yearly average Minimum temperature, 45.0 deg.).

Warmest day for 1937—81 deg. on 3rd August.

Warmest night—63 deg. on 13th August.

Coldest day—34 deg. on 29th January.

Coldest night—24 deg. on 10th December.

G. P. WEBB,
Borough Account and Meteorological Officer.

BOROUGH OF TENBY

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

HOUSE DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS.

Inspections have been carried out from time to time and new connections and existing drainage examined, and in most cases were found satifactory. Some defects were found in existing drains and after verbal or informal instructions the same were remedied.

ACCUMULATIONS OF REFUSE.

A few cases of accumulation were investigated and were remedied on verbal instructions.

COWSHEDS.

There are four cowsheds within the Borough all of which were cleaned and whitewashed.

WORKSHOPS.

There are 62 workshops and 40 were inspected and found satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 11 bakehouses all of which were found satisfactory.

DISINFECTIONS.

All premises after infection or on suspicion are fumigated with Formalin, and during the year 25 premises were so disinfected.

HOUSING.

Forty-four houses have been completed on the Newell Hill Field and are now occupied by the families from Upper and Lower Saltern and Bank Lane, which are under orders for demolition and clearance.

During the year six houses have been completed by private enterprise.

WATER FITTINGS AND WASTE WATER.

In this connection 54 inspections were made and 47 defects remedied, besides other defects remedied privately.

SEWERAGE.

The sewerage of the Borough is in good condition and has been periodically inspected throughout the year. No flooding has occurred and the two outfalls worked satisfactorily throughout.

I append herewith a list of inspections carried out.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

B. MORLEY,
Sanitary Inspector.

LIST OF INSPECTIONS.

Drainage and Sanitary Fittings	37
Accumulations	3
Cowsheds	4
Workshops	40
Bakehouses	11
Disinfections	25
Waste Water, etc.	54

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AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There are no ambulance facilities except for infectious cases when the ambulance attached to the County Isolation Hospital collects the cases. Transport of these cases is dependent on hand stretchers and the loan of the local laundry van which accommodates two stretchers.

Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	40
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	10
(2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	51
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	10
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	31
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	5

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	Nil
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied — Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) by owners — Nil

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners — Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made — 31

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders — 26

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made — Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit — Nil

4. <u>Housing Act, 1936 - Par 1V - Overcrowding:-</u>

(a) - (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year — 30

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein — 30

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein — 135

(b) - Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year — Nil

(c) - (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year — 44

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases — 160

This is constantly recurring

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.

The overcrowding in the summer season is very bad not only in small houses provided for relief of overcrowding but also in lodging houses and boarding houses.

MILK SUPPLY.

No action has been taken under Order of 1926 and Milk Order of 1936.

Meat and Other Foods.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Number inspected	Nil	Nil			
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil				
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	-				
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil				
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil				

NOTICES.

	Formal.	Informal.
Drainage and Sanitary Fittings	0	7
Accumulations	0	1
Cowsheds	0	1
Workshops	0	0
Bakehouses	0	0
Disinfections	0	25
Waste Water	0	47

B. MORLEY,
Sanitary Inspector.